

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
KITCHEN, et al. : Expected
: Group Art Unit: 2764
Application No: Unassigned (Rule 53(b):
Continuation of Appl. Serial No. : Expected
09/034,561 filed March 3, 1998). : Examiner: R. Alvarez
:
Filed: Concurrently herewith :
:
For: ELECTRONIC BILL PROCESSING :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant
Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of a continuation under 37 USC 1.53(b) of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read --ELECTRONIC BILL PRESENTATION
WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS LINK--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add new claims 34-48 as follows:

--34. A method for presenting billing information via a network, comprising;

transmitting, via a network, a bill including a location identifier of an agreement between a payer and a biller;

receiving, via the network, a request for the agreement; and

transmitting, via the network, the agreement in response to the received request.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein:

the agreement includes terms and conditions upon which the bill is based.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein the location identifier of the agreement is a link, and further comprising:

activating the link to transmit the request for the agreement.

37. The method of claim 34, wherein the bill is one of a summary bill or a detailed bill.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein the bill is transmitted by a first network station and the agreement is transmitted by a second network station different than the first network station.

39. A system for presenting billing information via a network, comprising:

a first network station configured to transmit, via a network, a bill including a location identifier of an agreement between a payer and a biller; and

a second network station configured to receive the transmitted bill, to transmit a request for the agreement, and to receive the requested agreement via the network.

40. The system of claim 39, wherein the first network station is further configured to receive the request and transmit the requested agreement to the second network station.

41. The system of claim 39, wherein:

the location identifier of the agreement is a link; and

the second network station is further configured to activate the link to transmit the request for the agreement.

42. The system of claim 39, wherein the agreement includes terms and conditions upon which the bill is based.

43. The system of claim 39, wherein the bill is one of a summary bill or a detailed bill.

44. The system of claim 39, further comprising:

a third network station configured to receive the request and to transmit the requested agreement to the second network station.

45. An article of manufacture for presenting billing information via a network, comprising:

a computer readable medium; and

computer programming stored on the medium;

wherein the stored computer programming is configured to be readable from the computer readable medium by a computer to thereby cause the computer to operate so as to:

transmit, via a network, a bill including a location identifier of an agreement between a payer and a biller;

receive, via the network, a request for the agreement; and

transmit, via the network, the requested agreement.

46. The article of manufacture of claim 45, wherein the agreement includes terms and conditions upon which the bill is based.

47. The article of manufacture of claim 45, wherein the location identifier of the agreement is a link.

48. The article of manufacture of claim 45, wherein the bill is one of a summary bill or a detailed bill.--

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is directed to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application, which is a Rule 53(b) continuation of pending Application Serial No. 09/034,561, filed March 3, 1998.

Claim 1 is pending in this application, claim 2-33 having been cancelled in the submittal of the Rule 53(b) continuation application. Claim 1 is cancelled by this preliminary amendment.

Claims 34-48 are added herein.

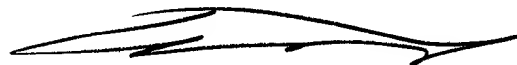
The title is amended to more fully describe the invention.

No new matter is added by this preliminary amendment.

New claims 34-48 are directed to an innovative electronic bill presentation technique disclosed in the written description of the application as originally filed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Respectfully submitted,
LALOS & KEEGAN



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